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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee Meeting, Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Arts & Sciences Student Life Committee

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Student Life Committee for the Arts and Sciences
Minutes for September 9, 2008
Bush Science Center #257
Start 12:38 – Finish 1:42pm

Present: Paul Harris (Chair), Jimmy Colston, Denise Cummings, Creston Davis, Nick Horsmon, Micki Meyer, Ken Miller, Derrick Paladino, Jennifer Queen, Katie Sutherland

I. Introductions

- a. P. Harris will be chair of SLC as he is only tenured faculty member on committee.

II. Announcement

- a. P. Harris reports that the EC is currently determining its agenda for the year.
Probable topics: the proposed curriculum change & merit pay for faculty.

III. Structure and Purpose of Student Life Committee

- a. See attachment

IV. Old Business

A. Faculty Involvement in the Co-Curriculum Survey

- a. History: Came out of discussions last year with Donna Lee and Cara Meixner re: lack of involvement of faculty co-curriculum and advising Greek Organizations.
- b. Next step: J. Queen & P. Harris will compile data to present to this committee. Recommendations will then be added with possible presentation to EC and finally full faculty.

B. Recommendations from ATO Strategic Plan Assessment Committee (in conjunction with Division of Student Affairs)

- a. History: Reviewed recommendations & D. Davison's request for SLC involvement (see attachment).
- b. Discussion: K. Miller said that #1 is basically done and that A. Hughes & D. Willingham in student affairs ran a training session with Greek organizations last weekend. P. Harris expressed concern that only Greek organizations are involved. Expressed a hope that all residential organizations are included. K. Miller thought that A. Hughes might be working on #2 as well. M. Meyer said that #3 is in process. K. Miller indicated that it is less clear what's happening with #3. Old point system was problematic, but its unclear what new system will be.
- c. Next step: Invite relevant individuals (through K. Hater's office) to October SLC meeting to inform us on progress and give input/feedback at that time.

V. New Business

- A. Meyer volunteered for recording secretary of SLC.

- B. Endorsement/Representatives for Diversity Workshops
 - a. History: K. Norsworthy sent a request to P. Harris for SLC endorsement of the diversity workshop.
 - b. The members of the Student Life Committee unanimously voted to endorse efforts which support and promote increasing the diversity of the student body, faculty and staff of Rollins College.
 - c. Next: SLC will be represented at the workshops and related meetings by K. Sutherland, D. Cummings, D. Paladino and M. Meyer.
- C. SLC support for possible SGA initiatives
 - a. Discussion: N. Horsmon reported that SGA and other students are setting about writing a Social Honor Code to complement the academic honor code that emphasizes individual responsibility. SGA identified several peer educators who will be key in the process. The request is to keep the initiative student driven. SLC offered its services as a sounding board for ideas and as a place to present the finished product before going to full faculty.
 - b. Discussion: P. Harris said expanding living-learning communities & Student representation on the Board of Trustees will probably also come up at some point & SLC expressed an interest in giving feedback/input.
- D. Communication between Faculty & Student Affairs
 - a. Discussion: M. Meyer expressed concern about “rumor mill” on campus being perpetuated by faculty and wondered if it would be within the purview of this committee to create a communication plan for information flow between division of student affairs and the faculty. K. Sutherland asked if that wasn’t already passed as a motion in an A&S faculty meeting last Spring. P. Harris said that it was. The DOSA is required to report to the faculty at least once a semester. The DOSA is also requested to report upon the request of the president of the faculty or in the case of a serious incident on campus. (see minutes from 4/17/2008 Faculty meeting for Bylaw wording) J. Queen suggested that this committee act as a conduit of information from the DOSA’s office to the faculty. K. Miller and P. Harris expressed concern of a “telephone game” effect if the information went through too many people. J. Queen articulated frustration at this committee’s lack of contribution to the college since the academic honor code and reiterated that this might be a way to fill a need (both for information flow and for SLC’s purpose).
 - b. Next: Request for K. Hater to come to the November or December SLC meeting to discuss possible process.

VI. Adjournment

ROLES OF STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE AND DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences / Section V – Bylaws

Article VII – Standing Committees of the Faculty

Section 3. The Student Life Committee

Responsibilities. The Student Life Committee recommends policies and priorities with regard to student life to the Faculty and advises the administration concerning the implementation of such policies.

Student life concerns include, but are not restricted to, issues related to student housing, student services, student activities and organizations, student conduct and standards, recreation, and intercollegiate athletics.

Membership. The membership of the Student Life Committee shall consist of thirteen voting members: six elected from the faculty, two members of the professional staff elected by the members of the staff, and five students selected by the Student Government Association. The students shall be appointed at the beginning of the academic year and remain on the Committee for a period of one year.

Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences / Section IV – Policies & Procedures

A. Administration of the College of Arts and Sciences

Dean of Student Affairs

The Dean of Students is responsible for student academic development and student services in the undergraduate College. The Dean of Student Affairs oversees the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership, Counseling and Psychological Services, Community Standards and Responsibility, Residential Life, Career Services, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Health Services. The structure of the office is based on the belief that the academic and non-academic lives of students are inextricably linked. The office sees the creation of an environment conducive to learning as its central goal.

Division of Student Affairs (from Web site)

The staff members of the division are committed to making the academic experience of Arts and Sciences students rewarding and enriching. We believe that learning takes place in a variety of settings, in and out of the classroom. Student Affairs programs and services contribute to the personal, social and intellectual growth and development of our students.

The programs and services we provide are found in Career Services, Community Standards and Responsibility, Counseling and Psychological Services, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Health Promotion, Health Services, Multicultural Affairs, Residential Life, and Student Involvement and Leadership.

ALPHA TAU OMEGA STRATEGIC PLAN ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE DECISION ON PROGRESS TOWARDS GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

... we would offer the following recommendations:

1. Rollins College should have a set of judicial policies and procedures in place for assessing evidence, judging responsibility, and imposing sanctions/interventions that are specific to the unique nature of student organizations and residential organizations. Because our current system is designed for individuals, the judicial procedures surrounding this case were often ambiguous and confusing. On a number of occasions our committee had to solicit clarification on our responsibilities, which seemed to change somewhat over time. In short, because policies and procedures are not in place, there was a feel of “making it up as we go along” about the entire process.
2. We believe that developing a strategic plan with key performance indicators has been a valuable experience for ATΩ and would be a valuable experience for all Greek and residential organizations on campus. We believe that these plans should be the norm and that progress towards goals should be assessed both internally (by members) and externally (by appropriate Student Affairs staff) on a regular basis. We also believe that all plans, including ATΩ’s, should include KPIs related to the care and maintenance of organizational housing.
3. Among the faculty, much of the ATΩ controversy this year has centered on the process used to assign housing, not on the progress or shortcomings of the organization. We believe that housing is a broader conversation, but it is a conversation worth having. Is organizational housing a right or a privilege to be earned? Should Greek organizations be given priority status with regard to these small group residences, or should they have to compete with other potential users such as living-learning communities? If organizational housing is a privilege, shouldn’t organizations have to apply or reapply for housing on a regular basis, and prove that they are worthy of attaining or retaining these residences? Given the recent dialogue surrounding Strong Hall, along with current institutional initiatives to reform curriculum and co-curriculum, it seems an appropriate time to revisit how student housing is assigned.

Paul Harris - ATO

From: Donald Davison
To: pharris
Date: 3/27/2008 8:49 AM
Subject: ATO

Hi Paul,

I read the documents from Lewis regarding ATO and housing. I believe that the recommendations suggested by the 'strategic plan assessment committee' are thoughtful and should not be lost in the governance system. Would you follow through with those discussions in your SLC, perhaps looking towards bringing a series of policy recommendations to the EC in the fall semester? Since some of these questions also involve housing (i.e., residential services) and budgeting there might be some overlap with F & S. Perhaps a system of combined conversations could occur. I appreciate your consideration.

Thanks
Don